The cost of clearing in the past has precluded the denudation of large areas. In the future, the use of bulldozers and other powerful machinery may alter this, and then the trend will be in the same general direction as in the wheatbelt. Although no large areas in the forest have been cleared outright, considerable change has been made by partial clearing. First there is the removal of the finest trees for sawmilling purposes; then, large areas have been ring-barked or burnt to induce grass to grow. This has had the effect of destroying or diminishing the overhead canopy which is characteristic of the virgin forest. By letting in the sun and wind, the humidity of the air and the formation of humus is less, with a consequent change in the character of the ground vegetation. However, the amount of change has not been sufficiently great to cause noticeable differences in the biological balance. The very large areas reserved for forestry and water catchments will always be sanctuaries for wild life, and this is probably the most hopeful feature from a naturalist's point of view.

As time goes on, we must expect that other animals and plants will be introduced, either intentionally or accidentally, and the struggle for survival become more intense. The struggle will not be only between native and introduced species. Some indigenous kinds may be able, not only to hold their own, but become more numerous. It is the rarer and beneficial species that will have to be protected. This involves study of their habits and haunts, and it may be necessary to provide artificial protection such as provision of food, water or breeding sites. During recent years publicity has been given to the dangers of soil erosion. This has had the effect of making landowners conscious of the value of trees. Many are now making reservations of portions of their properties for afforestation. This will have a generally beneficial influence in preserving wild life.

Looking to the future, we must realize that the environment will be controlled more and more by human agency. The biological balance is important for economic reasons. Only by intensive study can we hope to understand the problems involved, and so be competent to control the environment.

## FROM FIELD AND STUDY

**Multiple Broods of Yellow-tailed Thornbill.**—Last year (1947), about the beginning of November, I found a Yellow-tailed Thornbill's nest in a low branch of a Christmas tree. The two thornbills used the nest until the end of February this year. In all, four separate lots of eggs were laid, and in each case the young hatched out and got away safely.

—R. R. GREENHOW, Cookernup.

**A Fish New to Western Australia.**—Early in October, 1948, the Museum received two very interesting fish, one from the Chief Inspector of Fisheries, the other from the C.S.I.R., Fisheries Division. They had both been caught by Capt. R. Saunier of the